

Sociology

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in either GCSE English Literature, English Language or Humanities.

Assessment and Grading

Students will sit three exam papers at the end of the two year course. This will be 100% of their overall grade.

Paper 1:

Education with Theory and Methods.
Written exam, 2 hours — 80 marks

Paper 2:

Topics in Sociology (Families and Households followed by Mass Media).
Written exam, 2 hours – 80 marks

Paper 3:

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.
Written exam, 2 hours – 80 marks

How will I learn?

By applying theoretical principles when carrying out sociological research and theory. Class activities e.g. debates, discussions, role-plays. By questioning 'Common sense' ideas people have about human behaviour and critically examining sociological evidence.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Sociology can lead into almost any degree at university. It is particularly useful for those considering a 'people orientated' career in the future, such careers include education, law, policing, PR and public policy.

What will I learn?

Education

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- The role and functions of the education system.
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.
- Relationships and processes within schools.
- The significance of educational policies.

4.1.2 Methods in Context

Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

4.1.3 Theory and Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.
- The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'.
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.
- Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories.

Crime and Deviance

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control.
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class.
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society.
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Blyth—Teacher in charge of Sociology